

Falls Church Environmental Services Council
Approved Minutes: September 20, 2007 7:30 PM
City Hall Planning Conference Room

Present: Ralph Yatsko (chair), Kathy Allan (City Liaison), Bill Schellstede, Nancy Lee, Juanita Bowman

Meeting called to order at 7:35PM. Minutes approved for June 2007.

ACTION ITEMS:

3. Climate Protection Initiative Task Force: City Council work session held on 9-4-2007 where Laurie Huber and Chuck Anderson presented a guidance document with basic recommendations. Kathy Allan prepared a staff comparative table listing the basic actions that neighboring counties have implemented. Recommendations discussed at Council Retreat. Staff will be asked to make a priority list. It would be desirable to have more staff to implement the prioritized programs.

4. Bike Friendly City: Ralph reported on his advocacy. He spoke with Wendy Block-Sanford (Staff Liaison to the Citizens Advisory Traffic Committee) and Judy Frasier (former Citizen Advisory Traffic Committee Chair) to encourage safe bike lanes along City roads and bike stands for commuters. Discussion followed about the “mind set” of most people that bikes are for recreational & exercise. We encourage our City to promote biking as a form of transportation (destination biking). Juanita mentioned a referral web site www.completestreets.org which presents ideas for safe streets.

5. Annual Report – no report at this time.

6. Gateway Project: Kathy Allan will draft a letter per our discussion. The proposed Gateway Project is in the RPA (Resource Protection Area) of Four Mile Run. There are many environmental issues for this large complex of buildings. The area is designated for Low Impact Design (LID) and the Gateway plans are high impact with requests for “special exceptions” to increase density and height in all of the buildings. This is a concern. Kathy gave out copies of the Engineering Comments and the Jefferson Street committee comments.

Discussion focused on encouraging: 1.reduce sediment with storm water management during construction and upon completion by installing a Stormceptor system; 2. preserve parkland and wildlife with improvements to the Four Mile Run stream bank; 3. LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification at gold or silver level which would provide pre and post construction regulations; 4. Wider sidewalks and streetscape design that would safely promote walking and bicycling to the W&OD bike path leading to the Metro; 5. Bridge over Four Mile Run (near Washington Street) to connect with WestLee rear property area for foot and bike traffic to flow unto Westmoreland Street.

All are encouraged to read the City Planning Services initial response to the Akridge proposal on the City web site.

UPDATE & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

* **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:** Kathy reported that Alexandria now has single stream recycling. Her research indicates that there is a lower market value on single stream recycling at this date. There is no money in the City budget for this program. But, Kathy would like to select a “trial zone”; get a baseline, and track the \$ benefit.

***ENERGY EFFICIENCY: GREEN BUILDING:** Ralph noted that the policy is in the Climate Protection Initiative Guidance Document.

***WATERSHED MANAGEMENT:** Kathy reported that Patricia Samora, (FC City Civil Engineer) wrote and obtained a (matching) grant to implement a series of Low Impact Development (LID) strategies to increase stormwater detention, improve water quality, and reduce pollution in Four Mile & Tripps Run. We applaud Trish’s accomplishment.

***DAYLIGHTING:** Juanita referred to her June meeting written report. Subject to a design study and monies available, a selected project could take place in FY09.

OTHER BUSINESS: GREEN BUILDERS: Nancy is compiling a list. She noted 2 referral sources: www.ecopartnersdc.org and the Sierra Club. She is checking many recycling and reuse web sites.

FALL CLEAN UP: scheduled for Oct. 6th.

EXTRAVAGANZA: Very successful. 17.7 tons electronics, 134 bikes, 97 cell phones, 2 tons of clothing collected.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS: Workshops to be held in Spring or Summer.

TASK GROUP REPORTS: Kathy is looking for ESC members interested in being Liaisons to these groups of volunteers. Kathy will list the groups and give a short description of what service they provide to the City. The 4 groups discussed were: Healthy Habitat, Invasive Plant Removal Task Force, Clean Up Task Force and Education Task Force.

NEXT MEETING DATE CHANGED TO OCTOBER 25th, 2007

Meeting Adjourned 9:15.